TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1837
23 February 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Under-Secretary-General Aldo Ajello leaves for Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Pakistan to begin consultations on fourth round of inter-Tajik talks.

+ Common international dialogue needed to keep high standard of peace-keeping, Danish Defence Minister tells first United Nations regional peacekeeping training workshop.

+ United States Ambassador Madeleine Albright to consult with leaders of countries on Security Council, regarding sanctions against Iraq.

+ Commission on Population and Development told that large-scale, uncontrolled population movements are causing grave concern to developed and developing countries.

+ "Group of 77" expresses unconditional support for UNCTAD as sole entity in United Nations system dealing with development questions in comprehensive manner.

+ Committee on Rights of Palestinian People adopts 1995 programme of work.

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Under-Secretary-General Aldo Ajello left for Moscow today to begin consultations in connection with the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Ajello's mission will also take him to the Tajikistan capital of Dushanbe, and Islamabad, Pakistan.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Mr. Ajello to meet with senior Government officials of the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Pakistan and with leaders of the Tajik opposition. He will hold consultations in Moscow from 24 to 27 February, in Dushanbe from 28 February to 1 March and in Islamabad from 2 to 4 March.

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Common international dialogue was needed to maintain a high standard of peace-keeping and to take on the increasingly demanding tasks associated with it, the Danish Defence Minister, Hans Haekkerup, told the first United Nations regional peace-keeping training workshop. He said a doctrine would provide a coherent basis for peace-keeping and set out the principles and parameters of an operation. The international community could not afford to water down the standard of United Nations peace-keeping because of the overwhelming amount of work needed to be done by peace-keepers around the world.

Mr. Haekkerup urged the international community to continue recognizing the United Nations as the overall authority in peace-keeping, and to live up to the traditional principles of the Organization for peace-keeping: consent of parties; impartiality and minimum use of force. The five-day workshop, which will conclude tomorrow in Denmark, is being attended by experts from European countries and representatives of Argentina and India. It will assess national experiences, exchange information about peace-keeping training and formulate requirements for training guidelines and standardization.

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United States Ambassador Madeleine Albright left New York today to consult with leaders of countries on the Security Council, regarding sanctions against Iraq, according to a United States spokesman. Ambassador Albright will discuss the best means to ensure Iraq's compliance with its obligations under Council resolutions.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Karel Kovanda, told United Nations correspondents that the crucial period for re-evaluating the Security Council sanctions against Iraq was coming up. There might be some important changes this year; the question remained when. It was an important time to reevaluate the whole system of sanctions, he continued. Iraq was doing a lot to meet the requirements of the Security Council's resolutions and this might be the time when Iraq fulfilled all those requirements.

* * *

Large-scale, uncontrolled population movements were causing grave concern to both developed and developing countries, the Commission on Population and Development was told Wednesday, as it considered the follow-up to the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. The Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Robert Paiva, said a broad range of policies were needed to deal with the growing numbers of migrants, which last year reached 125 million.

Mr. Paiva said sustainable development in source countries was necessary for orderly migration. He recommended that industrial nations target development cooperation funds to migrant-generating regions to improve infrastructures and create employment opportunities. Permanent and temporary legal migration opportunities must be increased and the rights of individual migrants must be respected. Other speakers stressed that agreement on definitions of certain terms, such as reproductive health, was crucial in any

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future analytical work on population and development. They also agreed on the need to prioritize follow-up activities to the Cairo Conference.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was best placed to contribute to the understanding of new and emerging issues, and to build consensus on fundamental development questions, the Chairman of the "Group of 77" developing countries said yesterday. Ambassador Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez (Colombia) told the press in Geneva that UNCTAD was the sole entity in the United Nations system that dealt with development questions in a comprehensive manner.

Ambassador Gonzalez said that UNCTAD's role was the most appropriate focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and inter-related issues in trade, finance, technology, investment services and sustainable development. There was a need for institutions to evolve and adapt themselves to meet the new challenges of trade liberalization and globalization, something UNCTAD had done in the past.

Recent calls for reforms in the United Nations due to institutional shortcomings should not be responded to with the creation of new institutions, the Ambassador said. Existing bodies should be built upon, and the international development dialogue should be kept alive, by deepening the examination of global policy issues and by a continuous search for consensus and cooperation among nations. UNCTAD was playing that vital role.

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Adopting its 1995 work programme yesterday, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, identified priority areas it will address, in light of political developments over the past year, and the status of the Middle East peace process.

The Committee will continue to promote support for the peace process and implementation of the agreements already reached. It will also mobilize and promote international assistance to the Palestinian people, by the United Nations and other donors, working to provide aid for immediate relief and for nation building.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1838
24 February 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Lebanon asks Secretary-General to help stop Israel's bombardment of southern Lebanon; Israeli Prime Minister says his Government only striking Hezbollah positions.

+ Israel's Permanent Representative tells Security Council President that Israel and Palestinians should negotiate their differences together.

+ Secretary-General welcomes Joint Framework Document on Northern Ireland.

+ Secretary-General leaves for Europe; will pay official visit to Austria; later to open Social Development Summit in Copenhagen.

+ Conference on "Sports Against Drugs" calls on athletes to protect youth against drug abuse.

+ More than 24,000 refugees, fleeing ethnic conflict in Burundi, cross into Tanzania.

+ IFAD launches project to encourage sustainable development for indigenous peoples in Bolivia.

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Lebanon has expressed serious concern over continuous Israeli bombardment of areas in south Lebanon in the last two days, as well as Israel's blockade of the seaport of Tyre, according to a United Nations spokesman. The country's Permanent Representative, Samir Moubarak, has called on Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to use his good offices to try and resolve issues relating to Israel's actions. The Secretary-General has since spoken with the Israeli permanent representative Gad Yaacobi.

Meanwhile, Israel's Permanent Representative telephoned a response from Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin to the Secretary-General. Mr. Rabin said Israel was not shelling Lebanon, but was striking Hezbollah positions, which were

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attempting to undermine Israel's security. When the Government of Lebanon prevents Hezbollah and other terrorist groups from carrying out terrorist attacks and from launching artillery fire there will be no need for further action by Israel, Mr. Rabin said.

* * *

Israel's Permanent Representative Gad Yaacobi today met with Security Council President Legwaila J. Legwaila (Botswana) to discuss the Arab Group's request for an urgent Council meeting to consider Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. In a letter dated 22 February, the Group asked the Council to consider the dangerous consequences of such activities for the Palestinian people and the Middle East peace process.

Ambassador Yaacobi told United Nations correspondents he had informed the Council President that Israel and the Palestinians should discuss and negotiate any differences between them. Dramatizing the confrontation between the two parties in the Security Council would hinder rather than enhance the peace process, to which Israel was totally committed. There was no better alternative for the parties and his Government was determined to continue to enhance prospects for a positive conclusion to negotiations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today warmly welcomed the Joint Framework Document on Northern Ireland, which has been published by the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General said the Document provided a new approach to addressing the problems, which had confronted the people of Northern Ireland for far too long. He fervently hoped that discussions between all relevant parties could now commence and that a lasting political settlement acceptable to all parties could be achieved.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has left for Europe, where he will pay an official visit to Austria and then travel to Copenhagen for the World Summit on Social Development, a United Nations spokesman said today. In Vienna, the Secretary-General is expected to meet with senior Austrian Government officials, including the Federal President, the Chancellor, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the city's mayor. He will also receive an honourary doctorate of law from the University of Vienna.

Next week, the Secretary-General will chair the bi-annual meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Topics will include the status of women in the United Nations system, follow-up to the Cairo Conference on Population and Development, and coordination of United Nations narcotic control activities. Following the ACC meeting, the Secretary-General will preside over a forum on

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the future of the United Nations system, which will be attended by ACC members and representatives of prominent think-tanks and foundations.

The Secretary-General will also deliver a key-note address at the Vienna Seminar, which is co-sponsored by the Austrian Government and the International Peace Academy, to commemorate the United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary and the Seminar's twenty-fifth. The topic of his address will be "Peace-Making and Peace-keeping in the Next Century".

* * *

The International Conference on Sports Against Drugs has concluded its meeting in Rome by appealing to all athletes to make decisive commitments to protect youth from drug abuse and to disseminate the message through sports events. The appeal adopted by the Conference stated that sports could greatly contribute to preventing drug abuse among young people by helping them to cope with difficult situations and by strengthening their personality and self-esteem. Sports could also transmit the values of self discipline, fairness and cooperation, which were part of the Olympic ethics.

The Conference noted that drug-abuse prevention programmes were not always able to reach street children and other youth outside school systems. There was a need for a comprehensive, multisectoral approach to make preventive efforts effective. The Conference also stressed that drug prevention programmes should focus on helping youth at risk to develop alternative coping skills and on promoting healthy lifestyles.

* * *

More than 24,000 refugees trying to escape ethnic fighting in Burundi have crossed into Tanzania in the last week, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The 16,000 Burundis and 8,000 Rwandans who had sought asylum in Burundi have scattered in Tanzanian border villages. Tanzania already hosts 60,000 Burundi and 600,000 of the 2 million Rwandese refugees in neighbouring countries.

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The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Bolivian Government have signed a $6.26 million loan agreement to help finance a sustainable development project by Beni Indigenous Peoples. With the new project, the seventh since 1991, IFAD's assistance to Bolivia will be equivalent to $70 million.

The project will provide land tenure security and prevent non-indigenous control over natural resources. It will seek to ensure Government recognition of the councils of indigenous communities as legal entities. It will also provide for land demarcation, titling and transfer of property rights from private "concession holders" to indigenous peoples.

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TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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27 February 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council urges States to arrest persons believed responsible for acts within jurisdiction of International Tribunal for Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says international community should consider options for UNOMIL's continued presence in Liberia.

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Austria; meets President, Chancellor and Foreign Minister; says United Nations will maintain strong presence in Vienna.

+ Cooperation in peace-keeping between United Nations and regional organizations must adapt to changing world situation, Secretary-General says.

+ Fighting breaks out between Somali factions over control of port and airport facilities in Mogadishu.

+ Human Rights Commission warned that indigenous peoples in some countries could face extinction.

+ International Narcotics Control Board releases 1994 report reviewing effectiveness of drug control treaties.

+ DPI publishes third in "blue book" series titled: The United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation.

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The Security Council today urged States to arrest and detain persons found in their territory, against whom there was sufficient evidence of responsibility for acts within the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for Rwanda. It urged States to take such action in accordance with their own national laws and relevant standards of international law, pending prosecution by the Tribunal.

In unanimously adopting resolution 978 (1995), the Council urged States to inform the Secretary-General and the prosecutor of the Tribunal of the

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For information media—not an official record

identity of those detained, the crimes they are believed to have committed, the evidence proving probable cause, and the date and place of their detention. States were also urged to cooperate with the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as investigators for the International Tribunal in securing unimpeded access to the detainees.

The Council condemned violent acts against people in refugee camps near Rwanda's borders and called on States to prevent the attacks. It also urged States, where serious acts of violence had taken place, to arrest and detain persons against whom there was sufficient evidence of having incited or participated in the violence. The detainees should be surrendered to the appropriate authorities for prosecution, and States should keep the Secretary-General informed.

* * *

The time had come to consider carefully how the international community could continue assisting the search for peace and stability in Liberia, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a progress report to the Security Council dated 24 February, the Secretary-General said the peace process in the country was once again at a standstill, and the Council would have to consider a number of options when the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) expired on 13 April.

The Secretary-General said that if the Liberian parties demonstrated a clear willingness to implement the Accra agreement signed last December, the Council could maintain UNOMIL under its current mandate. He stressed that the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) would have to be given the necessary resources for that option to be viable. The Council could also consider an enhanced United Nations role in Liberia through the establishment of a peace-keeping force to help the parties implement all aspects of the Accra agreement.

However, if the current political stalemate continued, the Secretary-General said the Council could consider two other options. UNOMIL's military component could be reduced, limiting the Mission's mandate to providing good offices, until the parties demonstrated the necessary political will to reactivate the peace process. Or, the Council could withdraw UNOMIL, which would signal to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Liberian people that the international community had given up its effort to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Whichever option was chosen, the international community would need to continue its active role in providing humanitarian assistance, the Secretary-General said.

* * *

The Secretary-General began his official visit to Austria today by meeting with Foreign Minister Alois Mock, according to a United Nations spokesman. Later, he met with President Thomas Klestil and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. During their discussions, Mr. Mock expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General for visiting Austria so early in the United Nations

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fiftieth anniversary year and said his Government hoped Vienna would be strengthened as a seat of the Organization.

The Secretary-General said he intended to maintain a strong United Nations presence in the city and expressed his gratitude to the Austrian Government for its commitment and support over the last 40 years. The two men also discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia, and the Secretary-General stressed the only solution to the conflict was continued negotiations on a political settlement, while maintaining a strong United Nations presence.

* * *

In Somalia, inter-clan fighting in Mogadishu yesterday occurred between a joint committee set up by rival factions to secure the port and airport and some elements of General Mohammed Farah Aideed's faction, according to a United Nations spokesman. The joint committee had agreed to secure the arrangement in cooperation with local police, but reinforced by their own "technicals". The spokesman said it appeared that General Aideed sent some of his own "technicals" who engaged with those from the other factions and the local police and were driven from the area.

* * *

The United Nations and regional organizations could contribute effectively to peace-keeping within a regional framework, if they took a rigorous approach and were capable of envisaging new forms of institutional cooperation, the Secretary-General said today. Speaking at the University of Vienna, where he was awarded an honourary Doctorate of Law, the Secretary-General said cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations must adapt to an ever-changing world situation.

However, the Secretary-General stressed that the diversified cooperation taking place between regional organizations and the United Nations should not lead to a questioning of the basic principles set forth in Chapter VIII of the Charter. The Security Council had primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security and that must remain the case.

* * *

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum has said indigenous peoples are in danger of extinction in certain countries. Addressing the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, she called for a mechanism to monitor their rights and to promote resolution of conflicts involving indigenous peoples. She also called on the Commission to give its full support to the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. Its adoption would constitute one of the first steps in the Programme of Action of the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples.

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The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) released its 1994 report today with recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of international drug control Conventions. The Board regularly reviews the world drug scene and international compliance with three treaties: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

In its report, the Board said the three Conventions were crucially important for effective international action, but some provisions were not effective enough or were misunderstood. However, the key to preventing drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotics was universal adherence to existing treaties, not the drawing up of new instruments, according to the report. The international drug control system must be dynamic enough to react rapidly to the fast changing world-drug scene.

* * *

The Department of Public Information (DPI) has published the United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation, the third volume in the "blue books" series. It is an in-depth look at the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) -- the cornerstone of efforts by the international community to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. It features a comprehensive collection of historic and United Nations documentation and other materials relating to the Treaty and the non-proliferation régime.

The "blue books" cover major developments in international relations of the past five decades in which the United Nations has played a leading role. The series is devised to provide primary research and reference tools to historians, policy makers, journalists and others interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the work of the United Nations in peace and security.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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28 February 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General chairs Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in Vienna; items include follow-up to Rio and Cairo Conferences, and status of women in United Nations.

+ Withdrawal of United Nations peace-keeping troops and equipment from Somalia continues without incident and ahead of schedule.

+ Human Rights Commission calls for establishment of a focal unit on right to development; also acts on migrant workers, minorities, religious intolerance and human rights covenants.

+ Special Rapporteur on former Yugoslavia says conflict in region motivated by political aims not religious or ethnic differences.

+ New UNPROFOR Commander assumes duties; outgoing Force Commander says Mission's humanitarian role is prime responsibility and biggest success.

+ Commission on Population and Development approves decision on follow-up to Cairo Conference.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali continued his visit to Vienna today, where he chaired the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which is being hosted this year by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a United Nations spokesman said. The Committee considered a number of items including international drug abuse control, and follow-up to the Rio Earth Summit and Cairo Conference on Population and Development. It also considered questions relating to the status of women in the United Nations.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will chair an ACC forum, which is being held in connection with the United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary to serve as an informal exchange of views on the future of the United Nations system.

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For information media—not an official record

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Months of detailed planning began to pay off today, as United Nations troops and equipment were withdrawn from Somalia without incident, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The operation was running ahead of schedule and should be completed by the weekend. Some 25 ships, including 17 with the joint task force from the United States, Italy, Pakistan, Malaysia, France and the United Kingdom, were assisting in the pullout.
Italian soldiers and United States marines were patrolling the port area and the beach adjacent to the airport. The remaining 1,500 Pakistani contingent from the United Nations Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM) will pull back from their positions around the airport tonight in preparation for their departure.

The joint task force formally assumed command of the port area in Mogadishu from UNOSOM commander General Datuk Aboo Samah, the spokesman said. Later, Special Representative Victor Gbeho flew to Nairobi, where he will continue his political role, returning to Mogadishu periodically as circumstances permit.

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The Commission on Human Rights has called on the Secretary-General to provide the Centre for Human Rights with a focal unit, which would follow-up on the Declaration on the Right to Development and its implementation. The Commission was concluding its consideration of the anti-racism decade, economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development, the rights of minorities and religious intolerance. The Commission also recommended that the General Assembly convene a world conference against racism, racial and ethnic discrimination, xenophobia and other contemporary forms of intolerance.

The Commission further urged States to identify problems in promoting the rights of women migrant workers and in ensuring health and social services. States were also urged to assist law enforcement officials to guarantee full protection of women migrant workers' rights, and to take measures to protect them from unscrupulous recruitment practices.

* * *

The conflict in Bosnia was motivated not by religious or ethnic differences but by political aims, the Committee on All Forms of Racial Discrimination was told yesterday as it met in Geneva. The Special Rapporteur of the former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, said "ethnic cleansing" was a political instrument aimed at intimidating a section of the population in order to evict it from one territory to another. It was practised by the Serbs, Croats and Muslims of Bosnia, he said.

Several experts expressed surprise at the Special Rapporteur's attempt to present the question of the former Yugoslavia within a political framework. Some members of the Committee said that in spite of his interpretation, apolitical factors such as ethnic, religious and other social phenomena were the root causes of the conflict.

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The new Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant General Bernard Janvier will assume command of the Mission tomorrow, taking over from General Bertrand de Lapresele who has completed one year of service. In his farewell remarks, General de Lapresle noted UNPROFOR's many successes and also his personal frustrations. The purpose of UNPROFOR had never really been understood by the people in the area, he said. However, one of UNPROFOR's greatest successes had been its prime responsibility, which was humanitarian.

General de Lapresele gave full credit for those successes to UNPROFOR's senior military and civilian commanders, as well as its personnel on the ground. He also paid a special tribute to the 140 soldiers who had given their lives for peace and the 1,204 soldiers from 38 countries who had been wounded while serving in the former Yugoslavia.

* * *

The Commission on Population and Development yesterday approved a draft decision containing its views on how follow-up to the Cairo Conference on Population and Development should affect its work. The draft covers the Commission's functioning, its proposed terms of reference, secretariat support, management, inter-agency coordination and resource base, and its programme of work.

According to the draft, the Commission should have primary responsibility for follow-up to the Cairo Conference, and should report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as international financial institutions should be invited to participate in the Committee's work.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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1 March 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Speakers tell Security Council Israeli settlements a threat to peace process in Middle East and must halt immediately.

+ General Assembly includes two new items on agenda related to financing and selection of judges for International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General chairs ACC Forum in Vienna on future of United Nations system.

+ UNHCR convoy caught in crossfire waits in central Bosnia; UNPROFOR and NATO agree there is no conclusive evidence of clandestine cargo deliveries to Tuzla area on 10 and 12 February.

+ Croatia says it is terminating UNPROFOR's mandate because Force has not helped control its borders, failed to implement Vance Plan's key provisions; and unable to demilitarize UNPAs.

+ Charter Committee hears of heavy economic losses to third States as result of Security Council sanctions.

+ Youth design project to commemorate fiftieth anniversary unveiled at United Nations Headquarters.

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Israel's resumption of settlements in the occupied Arab territories was a serious threat to the Middle East peace process and must be halted immediately, the Security Council was told yesterday, as it considered the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Several speakers said the settlement activity was an effort to prejudge future negotiations by creating a pre-existing situation on the ground, at a time when Israel had been expected to engage in confidence-building measures in support of the peace process.

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The Permanent Observer for Palestine, M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, said the Council had a responsibility regarding the cessation of Israeli settlements, which were a stark violation of the Declaration of Principles, the Fourth Geneva Convention and Council resolutions. The Council's failure to impose its will had enabled Israel to continue its settlement policy.

Israel's representative said since the establishment of the present Government in 1992, no new settlements had been established in the territories, nor would they be. Israel was building in Jerusalem, but so were the Arabs, he said. "They have not stopped building, and this is their right, we have not stopped building, and this is our right." According to agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the issue of settlements should be addressed through direct, bilateral negotiations and not taken up by the Council, he stressed.

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The General Assembly has decided to include in its agenda two new items related to the financing and selection of judges for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The item on the Tribunal's financing will be allocated to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), and the item on the selection of judges will be considered in the plenary. The Secretary-General requested the inclusion of the items, following the Security Council's adoption of a resolution setting up the Tribunal.

Assembly President, Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) appointed 25 experts in economics, finance and statistics to the Assembly's newly established intergovernmental ad hoc working group on the capacity to pay. The appointments, effective yesterday, were made following "extensive and arduous" consultations with the Chairmen of regional groups, the President said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today in Vienna chaired the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Forum on the future of the United Nations system. Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky opened the ACC Forum. Presentations were made by special invitees, including Julius Nyrere, Chairman of the South Commission; Ingvar Carlsson, Prime Minister of Sweden; and Shridath Ramphal, Co-Chairman of the Commission on Global Governance.

The Secretary-General said history had shown it usually took several years after major political upheavals for new political systems to be put in place. The United Nations was at a crossroads, as Member States had not yet decided on the new rules governing international relations in the post cold war era and its changing role in a period of fundamental and rapid change, including technological innovations.

Last night, the Secretary-General met with Ilter Turkmen, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for

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Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to discuss its relocation to Gaza. He then met with Frederico Mayor, the Director-General of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will address the Vienna Conference on Peace-keeping Operations, one of the first major events organized by the Austrian Government to mark the United Nations fiftieth Anniversary.

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A United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) convoy was caught in crossfire yesterday south of Velika Kladusa after delivering humanitarian aid to the Bihac pocket. All vehicles were now back in central Bosnia, waiting for the fighting to die down, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, fighting was still heavy south and southwest of Velika Kladusha as the rebel Muslim forces of Fikret Abdic tried to increase their territory by pushing the confrontation lines south.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has agreed with a report by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that there was no conclusive evidence of clandestine cargo deliveries being made to the Tuzla area in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 10 and 12 February. The spokesman said the NATO investigation brought a significant amount of information to the attention of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) concerning the presence in the area of NATO aircraft on those dates.

While UNPROFOR has not revised its observations, some have been explained by the presence of NATO aircraft in the area on those dates, the spokesman continued. Not all the observations have been fully explained and some may never be. It was agreed that reporting procedures should be improved so that UNPROFOR was made more promptly aware of NATO activity, he said.

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The Croatian Government had decided to terminate the mandate of UNPROFOR because it had been totally unable to implement the key provisions of the Vance Plan, the Commission on Human Rights was told yesterday. Croatia's Deputy Prime Minister Mate Granic said his Government had also made that decision because the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) had not been demilitarized, and illegal paramilitary Serb units were not yet disarmed. Even worse was the fact that UNPROFOR had failed to contribute properly to the full and effective control of Croatia's borders, he said.

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Bulgaria's losses as a result of the strict implementation of Security Council sanctions against Iraq, Libya and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) amounted to almost 25 per cent of its estimated gross national product (GNP) for 1995. The representative of Bulgaria was addressing the Special Committee on the Charter and the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization today as it continued its general debate. He called

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for the speedy development of means to assist third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The representative of Japan said his country had provided about $2.5 billion in economic assistance to third States affected by sanctions during the Persian Gulf crisis. The response by the international community during such crises must be flexible and specific, he said. The expertise of international financial and development agencies was required to integrate assistance in the development policies of recipient countries.

* * *

As part of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary celebrations, the Swiss watch company SMH/Swatch today introduced an international youth design project. The Chairman of SMH/Swatch, Nicolas Hayek, and Under-Secretary-General Gillian Sorensen also unveiled a commemorative watch, "UNlimited Chronograph". A portion of the proceeds from its sale will benefit the UN50 Trust Fund, in support of education and communication projects for youth.

Young artists from around the world presented their fabric designs which will be used to cover the seats in the General Assembly Hall during the United Nations International School (UNIS)/UN Conference on 2 and 3 March. The slipcovers incorporate a design tapestry of images that symbolize the theme "Trust and Fairness". Both the watch and the fabric designs were created under the auspices of YA/YA (Young Aspirations/Young Artists. Inc.), a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for inner-city youth.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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2 March 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says United Nations cannot impose peace and might concentrate its peace-keeping action in places where political will exists.

+ Sarajevo humanitarian airlift suspended after two planes hit by small arms fire; routine clearances for aid convoys withheld by Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats.

+ UNOSOM withdrawal completed ahead of schedule; UNDP says United Nations agencies are continuing their work in Somalia.

+ UNEP releases report on link between poverty, environment, population growth and sustainable development to coincide with World Summit for Social Development.

+ Assembly of International Seabed Authority elects President, discusses Council membership.

+ Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination expresses concern over increased racial and ethnic conflicts.

+ Students and Teachers gather at Headquarters to mark fiftieth anniversary of United Nations and UNESCO.

* * *

As the United Nations did not have the capacity to impose peace, it might have to concentrate its peace-keeping action in places where political will existed, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today. The Secretary-General was delivering the keynote address at the Vienna Conference on Peacemaking and Peace-keeping Operations for the Next Century. He noted that quantitative and qualitative changes in UN peace-keeping operations had made them more expensive, complex and dangerous. There was a great need to establish a workable system of international security, the Secretary-General concluded.

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For information media—not an official record

At the Conference, which was sponsored by the Austrian Government and the International Peace Academy, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alois Mock, announced that his Government would conclude, in the near future, standby arrangements with the United Nations. The President of Austria, Thomas Klestil, recalled his country's involvement in peace-keeping operations while noting that investing in people might be the best preventive action for peace.

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The humanitarian airlift into Sarajevo was suspended today, after two planes taking off and landing at the airport were hit by small arms fire, according to a United Nations spokesman. The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) has not received routine clearances for its aid convoys next week from either the Bosnian Serbs or the Croatian Serbs. The clearances are normally obtained one week in advance, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the National Security Council of Croatia reaffirmed the Government's decision not to extend the mandate of UNPROFOR beyond 31 March. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, speaking in Vienna, said that UNPROFOR's withdrawal from Croatia would make the presence of United Nations peace-keepers in Bonsia and Herzegovina practically impossible.

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The last Pakistani troops with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) have left Mogadishu and remaining civilian personnel and equipment have been taken safely offshore, a United Nations spokesman said today. United States marines and Italian troops from the joint task force had begun withdrawing from the port.

Somali "technicals", possibly under the control of the inter-clan joint committee formed to run the port and airport seemed to have gained control of the port following the UNOSOM pull-out and there had been only small scale looting, the spokesman said. The United Nations had taken out much of its equipment, which was necessary to run the facilities, but had pledged to bring it back within 48 hours, if the Somali people demonstrated they could run the port and airport for the common good.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Coordinator for Somalia, Erling Dessau said United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations would continue to work in the country following UNOSOM's withdrawal. While international staff have been temporarily relocated from Mogadishu, UN offices remained open and local staff were implementing programmes there. He said Somalia was not only Mogadishu and agencies and international staff were working hard to provide development assistance to rural communities where the local people were making an effort to rebuild their country.

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released a paper on the link between poverty, the environment, population growth and sustainable development to coincide with the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, 6 to 12 March. The paper is titled "Poverty and the Environment: Reconciling short-term needs and long-term sustainable goals". A compilation of ideas and options from environmental economists and development experts, it elaborates an integrated approach to development, focusing on whether the needs of the least advantaged and vulnerable members of society are being addressed.

UNEP worked towards understanding the driving forces in the cycle of environmental degradation and poverty, according to Executive Director, Elizabeth Dowdeswell. However, often passions were exacerbated when experts from vastly different perspectives attempted to grapple with the question, she said. She hoped the report would be a basis for needed dialogue and debate, not just in Copenhagen but in every capital afterwards.

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The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has elected Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia) as President of its first session. It also decided that regional groups should discuss informally the number of Assembly vice-presidents to be elected and submit candidates for those posts at a later meeting.

The Assembly, which is holding its first session in Kingston, Jamaica, also adopted its agenda and decided rules of procedure would be discussed informally in a small working group that represented all regional interests.

The President was later asked to help draw up a list of countries qualifying for membership in the Council of the Assembly under specific interest categories defined by the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the implementation of Part XI of the Convention.

* * *

The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination has called for urgent measures to bring down the ever-increasing number of racial incidents. Meeting in Vienna yesterday, the Commission expressed concern about the racial conflicts and violence taking place in so many parts of the world.

Several members stressed that many of the conflicts taking place in various regions had an ethnic or racial background. The killing of gypsies with explosives in Germany, the conflict in Bosnia, Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan, Mexico and Chechnya were frightening. Experts said some States used ethnicity as a vehicle for political policies. Governments should educate their citizens to prevent racial conflicts and violence.

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Fifty students and teachers from around the world will meet at Headquarters 1 to 6 March, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. They will meet staff and experts from the Organization to gain a better understanding of vital world concerns and the role of the UN in addressing them.

The students will also participate in the annual students' conference organized by the United Nations International School (UNIS) on the topic "Women in Society: A Natural Balance, An Unequal World". The students and teachers will consider concrete ways to mobilize schools to observe the fiftieth anniversary of the UN and UNESCO and the 1995 Year of Tolerance.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1843
3 March 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNOSOM, supported by seven-nation task force, completes withdrawal from Somalia ahead of schedule and without incident.

+ Under-Secretary-General Peter Hansen says United Nations will not cut off Somalia's life-support; agencies and relief groups to continue operations.

+ Security Council mission to Burundi reports situation in country potentially explosive; recommends strengthened United Nations presence to help build government institutions.

+ On final day in Vienna, Secretary-General meets with President of Austrian National Council.

+ Secretary-General considers minimum conditions exist for continuation of United Nations involvement in Guatemala peace negotiations.

+ Heads of State and government will meet in Copenhagen for World Summit for Social Development; will tackle issues of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

+ Angolan Government accuses UNITA of undermining peace process by provocative actions; threatens retaliation.

+ Heads of five United Nations agencies meet in Rome to plan better strategies for combining relief and development operations in Africa.

* * *

The withdrawal of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), assisted by a seven-nation combined task force, has been carried out in a safe and orderly manner, ahead of schedule and virtually without a hitch, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. UNOSOM's complete withdrawal marked the end of a major phase of the international community's efforts to facilitate the search for peace and to bring humanitarian assistance to the country.

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The Secretary-General said United Nations involvement in Somalia would continue. He stressed that international assistance, both in the political and humanitarian areas, would depend on the cooperation extended to the United Nations and humanitarian agencies by Somali's leaders, available resources, and the security situation in the country. He hoped that the Somali people would find the courage and wisdom to achieve political reconciliation and to bring peace to their country.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, said Friday that the United Nations was not switching off Somalia's life support. Mr. Hansen told correspondents that United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations were staying in the country. International agency staff had been temporarily withdrawn from Mogadishu and redeployed to other parts of Somalia and to Nairobi. About 50 international staff members from various United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations were still managing operations in 14 regions of the country.

Mr. Hansen said the international staff would work in those areas where security had been established. Members of the United Nations Coordination Team were combining their resources and making arrangements to ensure that they would have the transportation, communications and evacuation facilities necessary to maximize their security and mobility. He stressed that Somali cooperation and donor support were necessary. However, less than 10 per cent of the $70 million requested for the January-June 1995 consolidated inter-agency appeal had been received.

* * *

The seven-member Security Council mission to Burundi has described the political situation in the country as precarious and potentially explosive. In a report to the Council, dated 28 February, the mission said extremist Tutsi and Hutu elements within and outside the Government had not accepted power-sharing arrangements contained in the Convention of Government agreement signed last September. Moderates who formed the majority had been silenced through intimidation and threats, and the judicial system had largely collapsed. As a result, the survival of the coalition government, as well as peace and security in Burundi and the region, was threatened.

The mission has recommended that the United Nations presence in Burundi be strengthened to help build an impartial judicial system, train civilian police and establish effective administration in the provinces. The mission also recommended that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights deploy monitors throughout the country. The number of observers from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) should be increased from 46 and restrictions on their movement lifted.

An international commission of inquiry into the October 1993 coup attempt and massacre which followed should be set up as soon as possible, the report said. Some members of the mission believed the Council should explore the

imposition of sanctions, such as the denial of entry visas and freezing of foreign accounts, against individuals suspected of belonging to extremist groups in Burundi, while other members believed selective sanctions could be counterproductive.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali continued his official visit to Austria Friday, meeting with the former Mayor of Vienna, Helmut Zelik. The Secretary-General then went to the Austrian Parliament, where he met with the President of the Austrian National Council, Heinz Fischer, and stressed the crucial role which Parliament could play in support of the United Nations. The President stated that Austrian Parliament would be represented at the United Nations fiftieth anniversary conference organized this summer in New York. The two men also discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia, security problems in Europe and reform of United Nations institutions.

The Secretary-General also went to the Vienna International Centre, where he met with the staff of the United Nations agencies and programmes based in the city. Later, he met with Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee for the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General will leave for Copenhagen on Saturday, where he will attend the World Summit for Social Development.

* * *

More than 120 heads of State and government are expected to attend the World Summit for Social Development, which begins Monday in Copenhagen. The Summit will be the first ever meeting at the highest government level with the express objective of confronting poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, the Chairman of the Summit's Preparatory Committee, said a number of proposals had been developed into a unique global accord to enhance social development.

Mr. Somavia said the document concentrated on the needs and rights of countries and people who were experiencing the greatest hardships, while also addressing major economic and social problems in wealthier countries.

* * *

The Secretary-General considers that the minimum conditions exist for the continuation of United Nations involvement in the Guatemalan peace negotiations, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The Secretary-General has received positive replies from the President of Guatemala and the leadership of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) to written proposals by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding.

The Secretary-General said he expects both sides to make good on their commitment to give new impetus to the negotiations and to finalize an agreement on indigenous rights as soon as possible. Rapid progress on the

issue would strengthen the credibility of the negotiations. It would also increase support for the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights (MINUGUA), which has been fully deployed in Guatemala since 1 March.

* * *

The Angolan Government has accused the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) of undermining the peace agreement by provocative actions, and has warned of retaliation. A United Nations spokesman said Friday that diplomatic efforts were under way in Luanda to resolve the problem. Tensions had been reduced somewhat in the last 48 hours.

The Security Council approved on 8 February the third phase of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III), by which 7,000 troops were deployed to the country to assist with the peace process.

* * *

Heads of five United Nations agencies, which provide 80 per cent of total United Nations development assistance, met in Rome Friday to plan better strategies for combining relief and development operations in Africa. The high-level meeting is being held at a time of increasingly complex emergencies in the continent, which threaten the lives of millions of people.

The agency heads will discuss collaborative ways to cope with refugees and displaced people, and how to integrate operational priorities from the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. They will also discuss methods for fostering self-sufficiency among disaster-prone nations and how to programme risk potential into investments in long-term development.

The agencies involved include the World Food Programme; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the United Nations Children's Fund; the United Nations Population Fund; and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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6 March 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Opening World Social Summit, Secretary-General calls for new global social contract to bring hope to nations and to men and women around world; urges countries to rethink notion of collective social responsibility.

+ Social Summit elects Danish Prime Minister as President; moves to complete negotiations on Draft Declaration and Programme of Action.

+ Secretary-General to recommend deferral of UNAVEM III infantry deployment unless Angolan parties comply with Security Council conditions by 25 March.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends appropriation of $40 million for liquidation of ONUMOZ.

+ UNPROFOR protests continued obstruction by Bosnian Serbs of medical supply deliveries to enclaves in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Assembly of Seabed Authority elects 4 Vice-Presidents and appoints 9 to Credentials Committee; also appoints working group to finalize rules of procedure.

+ African Ministers begin 3-day meeting to review ratification of environment conventions and agreements in region.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called for a new social contract at the global level to bring hope to States, nations and men and women around the world. Opening the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen Monday, the Secretary-General said the international community should send a message that it was taking a clear stand against social injustice, exclusion and poverty around the world.

Real economic progress was impossible without progress in the social sphere, the Secretary-General said. Today's global economy affected everyone

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and its affects were not all positive. It eroded traditional ties of solidarity among individuals, it marginalized entire countries and regions and the gap between the rich and the poor had widened. The international community must therefore rethink the notion of collective social responsibility.

The Secretary-General said as the United Nations celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, it should ask some searching questions about its record, including how seriously it had taken its Charter commitments to promote "the economic and social advancement of all peoples". In making social issues a universal priority, the intention was to take responsibility for the collective future of international society and to pledge anew to the ideal of global solidarity.

* * *

The Prime Minister of Denmark, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen was elected President of the World Summit for Social Development at its opening session today. Mr. Rasmussen described the Summit as only the beginning of a new global process. Noting that its true significance would be measured by what happened at the Summit's conclusion, he urged delegates to transform hopes into action. The gathering was an historical occasion, which would give the international community the chance to share a common vision on how to solve the world's social problems. Those problems were so big and complex that they called for new solutions, alliances and values, he said.

Meanwhile, the Main Committee, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Juan Samavia of Chile, has begun final negotiations on its draft declaration and programme of action. The committee expects to produce a finalized text in all official United Nations languages by the time the Heads of State and Government meet on 11 March. Delegates will consider the Summit's central issues -- the eradication of poverty, promotion of productive employment and the elimination of social exclusion -- in plenary meetings.

* * *

Unless the Angolan parties had complied by 25 March with Security Council conditions for the deployment of United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) infantry units, the Secretary-General would recommend their deployment be deferred. In his first progress report on UNAVEM III dated 5 March, Dr. Boutros-Ghali noted that the Angolan conflict and the lessons learned from other peace-keeping operations had led the Council to adopt a new approach. It had agreed to his proposal to link the actual deployment of the bulk of UNAVEM III to the parties' prior implementation of certain specific commitments they had made under the Lusaka Protocol.

The Secretary-General said it would be difficult to justify deploying the infantry units unless essential initial tasks had been carried out including: an effective cease-fire; the full disengagement of Government and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) forces; the setting up of verification mechanisms; reliable communication links between the parties and

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UNAVEM; and the early start of de-mining. Realistic and practical arrangements for integrating UNITA troops into the national army should be reached without delay, the Secretary-General said. President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi should hold their agreed meeting soon, to give a much needed impetus to the peace process, the Secretary-General said.

The UN's involvement in numerous, extensive, complex conflicts was seriously taxing its limited resources, the Secretary-General noted. Parties who asked for the Organization's assistance must be prepared to help the international community help them. In the meantime, displaced persons needed significant assistance, and land-mines were a serious impediment to the movement of goods and people, as well as the resumption of agricultural activity. The capacity of humanitarian agencies to deal with those problems and contribute to the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants depended on the donor community's prompt funding of the 1995 Inter-agency appeal for the Angola.

Meanwile, six persons involved in de-mining activities for a non-governmental organization, have been found dead in Angola, according to a United Nations spokesman. Those killed, one German and 5 Angolans, were believed to have been the victims of an armed attack. Members of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) are investigating the killings.

* * *

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $40 million gross for the liquidation of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). By the terms of a draft resolution approved Friday, the authorization will cover the period 16 November 1994 to 31 March 1995. The amount would include a commitment authority of $25 million authorized under an earlier Assembly resolution and would be apportioned in accordance with the terms established under various resolutions cited in the text.

The Fifth committee also recommended that the Assembly approve the apportionment among Member states of their respective shares of the estimated staff assessment income of $946,700 in the Tax Equalization Fund. In addition, the unencumbered balance of nearly $4.5 million covering the period 1 November 1993 to 30 April 1994, would also be apportioned among Member States.

* * *

The United Nation Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, General Rupert Smith met outside Sarajevo Sunday with Bosnian Serb military leader Slobodan Milosevic to discuss the deteriorating situation in the eastern enclaves. A UN spokesman said that UNPROFOR's resupply efforts in those enclaves have been hampered by Bosnian Serbs, although one convoy did get through to a Dutch battalion in Srebrenica.

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Meanwhile, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi sent a letter over the weekend to Bosnian Serb leader Dr. Radovan Karadzic concerning the obstruction of medical supply deliveries to the enclaves. Mr. Akashi said the situation, which had been going on since last November, placed the civilian population, particularly vulnerable groups, in intolerable and degrading conditions. The obstruction of medical resupplies to the UN troops was also unacceptable. He reminded Dr. Karadzic that the actions by Bosnian Serbs were contrary to the Geneva Conventions and were a violation of international humanitarian law, which would be subject to investigation by the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

* * *

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has elected 4 vice-presidents and appointed 9 members to its Credentials Committee. Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, Friday the Assembly has also appointed 10 members of a working group assigned to develop the Assembly's rules of procedure.

The Vice-Presidents are from Algeria, Mexico, the Russian Federation and Canada. They represent all the regional groups, except for Asia, which holds the Presidency of the Assembly. Mr. Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia) was elected President on 28 February.

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Environmental ministers and senior legal officials from 15 eastern and southern African countries began meeting in Nairobi Monday, to review issues affecting the ratification by African nations of environment Conventions and Agreements relevant to the region. The three-day meeting was convened by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and will be attended by representatives of relevant UN agencies and subregional organizations.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1845
7 March 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Delegates from 193 countries consider ways to eradicate poverty, as Summit for Social Development continues in Copenhagen.

+ Secretary-General expresses shock at assassination of United Nations staff member in Algiers; condemns latest violence in Algeria.

+ UNPROFOR is concerned at formation of combined military command by Bosnia and Croatia; says move adds to heightened tensions in both countries.

+ Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs says international effort to stop famine in Somalia was outstanding.

+ Iraq tells Committee on Charter "unprecedented" resort to sanctions under Chapter VII does not conform with United Nations objectives; says even medicine and food imports blocked.

+ Member States owe United Nations a total of $3 billion as of 28 February.

* * *

The eradication of poverty was the theme under discussion Tuesday at the World Summit for Social Development, which is being attended by nearly 2,700 delegates from 193 countries. More than a billion people are estimated to live in absolute poverty, most of them from developing countries. Many delegates from those nations spoke of how poverty affected their people and what they were doing to alleviate the problem. Others cautioned that structural adjustment programmes coupled with the problem of debt servicing posed formidable development constraints.

Ethiopia's Minister of Planning and Development, Dr. Duri Mohammed, stressed that the challenge of ridding Africa of brute poverty must be met mainly by Africans themselves. He cited economic strife and poor economic

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For information media—not an official record

policies as being partly responsible for poverty on the continent. However, the international community had a responsibility to create the external conditions which would encourage employment -- the main defence against poverty.

Yesterday, the Summit focused on ways to establish an enabling environment for social development, which supported economic growth and poverty eradication. Developed nations were urged to ease the foreign debt burden of developing countries and to reaffirm their commitment to contributing 0.7 per cent of their GNP to official development assistance. The Bretton Woods institutions were called upon to promote social development.

James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said there was little equity in today's world, where a widening gulf between rich and poor bred despair and instability. Strong countries must give weak ones access to their markets, share modern technology and provide financial support for development assistance and debt relief, he said.

* * *

Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was shocked to learn of the murder of Ouassini Lahrache, an staff member of the United Nations Information Centre in Algiers, according to a UN spokesman. Mr. Lahrache was assassinated Tuesday, as he left home on his way to work. He was shot when he resisted an attempt by two men to hijack his car. A neighbour who was travelling with him was unharmed.

The Secretary-General strongly deplored Mr. Lahrache's killing and other gross acts of violence, which had already claimed so many innocent lives in Algeria. He extended his condolences to Mr. Lahrache's family and his colleagues at the UN office in Algiers.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, speaking from Copenhagen, also expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Lahrache who had worked with the UN since 1983.

* * *

The Governments of Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have formed a combined military command, encompassing the Croatian military and the Bosnian Muslim-Croat Federation, according UNPROFOR Radio. Croatian President, Franjo Tudjman, said Monday that the bloc had not been created as a threat to any third party, as long as peace efforts were not exhausted.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) did not view the move as a positive development, according to its Director of Information. In the context of heightened tensions in both Croatia and Bosnia, the latest combined command, while between two internationally recognized States, was a reason for concern, he said.

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Meanwhile, senior United States envoy Richard Holbrooke met with President Tudjman Monday, to try and convince him to reverse the decision to terminate UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia at the end of March, the spokesman said. In other developments, Foreign Ministers from the European Union have renewed their request for Croatia to reconsider its position and plan to use "economic encouragement". UNPROFOR Radio reports the Ministers have decided negotiations for an economic cooperation and trade accord with Croatia will not start unless the Tudjman Government agrees to extend the mandate.

* * *

The international community's intervention in Somalia was mainly humanitarian, according to Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Lansana Kouyate. He told United Nations correspondents Tuesday, that before the intervention Somalis were dying at a rate of 1,000 a day because of famine and violence between the clans. The international community's effort to end the large-scale killing and starvation had been outstanding.

Unfortunately, all efforts to create a Somali State had been in vain because the factions did not allow it, Mr. Kouyate continued. Although mistakes had been made, in the final analysis the most important consideration was the international community's commitment to help Somalia and the positive humanitarian results achieved. The world community had not abandoned Somalia. United Nations agencies had stayed in the country to help with reconstruction and rehabilitation, although their international staff had been temporarily relocated outside Mogadishu, he said. However, the United Nations could only be a facilitator. Its efficiency and effectiveness would depend on the Somalis who must help themselves.

* * *

The rapid resort to Chapter VII sanctions imposed on Iraq was unprecedented in United Nations history, the country's representative, Saeed Hasan, said Monday. He was addressing the Special Committee on the United Nations Charter and on the Strengthening of the Organization. The imposition of the sanctions did not conform with UN objectives and had even blocked the import of educational materials, medicine and food. Two missions sent by the Secretary-General to evaluate the effect of sanctions on Iraq had documented the depth of human suffering, but no further action had been taken, he said. The Charter provided no mechanism to assess the impact of sanctions on people.

Several speakers addressed the need for mechanisms to ensure assistance for third States affected by Security Council sanctions. France and the United Kingdom noted that international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, were addressing the problem.

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The United Nations was owed a total of $3 billion as of 28 February. Of that amount, $1.2 billion was for unpaid assessments to the regular budget and $1.8 billion was for peace-keeping assessments, according to a UN spokesman. At the end of January, the unpaid contributions totalled $3.6 billion. The United States was the top debtor, owing a total of $1 billion and the Russian Federation was the second largest debtor, owing $624 million.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1846
8 March 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says problems faced by women lie at heart of global agenda; until women's rights and full potential achieved, enduring solutions unlikely to world's most serious problems.

+ World Summit for Social Development marks International Women's Day in special observance.

+ Special Representative Yasushi Akashi expresses concern about increasing cease-fire violations in Croatia; says both sides preparing for possible resumption of fighting.

+ Appeal for aid to help establish independent, impartial justice system in Rwanda, made by High Commissioner for Human Rights.

+ Human Rights Commission adopts 33 resolutions and decisions; acts on Decade of Indigenous People and minority rights.

+ FAO launches new initiatives to facilitate dialogue among governments and industry on sustainable development and conservation of forests.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee considers redeployment of resources from anti-apartheid activities.

+ Government experts meet in Iceland to review global plan to protect marine environment from land-based activities.

* * *

The problems faced by women worldwide lie at the heart of the global agenda, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Wednesday. In a message to mark International Women's Day, the Secretary-General said until the rights and full potential of women were achieved, enduring solutions to many of the world's most serious social, economic and political problems were unlikely. Efforts to improve the lives of women, in many cases offer the most immediately efficacious means of changing entire societies for the better.

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At the United Nations, the promotion and protection of women's rights were central objectives, the Secretary-General said. He outlined three targets of his Strategic Plan of Action for the Improvement of the Status of Women, from 1995 to 2000: an overall level of 35 percent women by 1995; 25 percent women at the senior level by 1997; and an overall level of 50 percent -- complete gender equality -- by the year 2000. The Strategy was also part of a comprehensive approach to human resources, calling for major changes in the management culture, the system of appraisal and accountability, and in recruitment and promotion.

* * *

The World Summit for Social Development observed International Women's Day by focusing on Gender Perspective: enhancing the participation of women in social progress and development. International Women's Day was proclaimed in Copenhagen in 1910 and a series of events by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations were held in the city to highlight the historic occasion.

In his address to the Session Wednesday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said poverty could not be eliminated, productive employment could not be expanded and social integration could not be achieved unless women, participated wholly and equitably in social development.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the First Lady of the United States, announced a new initiative to expand girls and women's education in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The United States will allocate $100 million over a 10 year period to increase by 20 percent, girl's primary school completion rates, or the number of women who are functionally literate in the project areas. Mrs. Clinton said a key element of the initiative was that women, guided by non governmental organizations, would lead the effort. She urged other governments to join the United States in creating or expanding opportunities for women worldwide.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi expressed concern Wednesday about the rising number of cease-fire violations in Croatia. Mr. Akashi said many of the violations appeared to be defensive, reflecting the climate of uncertainty over the expiry of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) mandate on 31 March. However, even defensive preparations could rapidly escalate, putting at risk not only the 29 March 1994 Cease-fire Agreement, but also undermining the Economic Agreement of 2 December, he said.

The Croatian Army and Croatian Serb military forces, especially in the Zone of Separation had hindered the ability of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to fulfil its responsibilities, Mr. Akashi said. Both sides had restricted UN personnel's movements, which impeded their monitoring capability, and violated the Cease-fire Agreement. It was clear the forces on both sides of the Zone of Separation were deepening their defensive positions in preparation for the possibility of resumed fighting.

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Mr. Akashi called on the Croatian Government and the Serb authorities in Knin to exercise the utmost restraint and renew their commitment to the Cease-fire Agreement. He stressed that the consequences of failing to do so, could be incalculable for both Croatia and the region.

* * *

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, called Wednesday for Governments to make funds quickly available to re-establish the system of justice in Rwanda. In an urgent appeal for aid, Mr. Lasso said the Rwandan people had been working towards reconciliation, but assistance from the international community to support an independent and impartial justice system was indispensable if the process was to continue.

The High Commissioner's field operation in Rwanda has been working with the Rwandan Minister of Justice to help establish an effective justice system. The programme recruits and deploys judges, investigators, prosecutors and defence attorneys and provides infrastructure support to improve prison conditions. It also provides urgently needed assistance to help the Rwandan Government to process quickly and fairly the cases of people accused of human rights violations, including acts of genocide.

* * *

More than 40 ministers and high-level forestry officials will meet on 16 and 17 March in Rome to discuss the conservation and sustainable development of forests. In the first global meeting of its type, the ministers are expected to adopt the "Rome forestry commitment", a reaffirmation to ensure the world's forests are conserved, managed and used in a sustainable manner. The meeting is sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Director-General Jacques Diouf said the FAO must facilitate a broader partnership among governments, non-governmental organizations and the private forest industry at national and global levels. In another first, the agency met Wednesday with executives from private forest industries. They play a major role in increasing the value of forests and have been introducing forest management and environmentally friendly processing that contribute directly to sustainability. The FAO will also seek the advice of 24 non-governmental organizations from around the world at a meeting in Rome on 10 and 11 March.

* * *

The Commission on Human Rights has called on the international community to reject the use of unilateral coercive measures, which were in clear contradiction of international law, against developing countries. The resolution, which was adopted by a roll call vote of 24 in favour to 17 against, with 12 abstentions called on the Secretary-General to submit a report on such measures. The United States said the text had no place in the Commission, as it dealt with commercial relations between States and was not a resolution on human rights.

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In earlier action, the Commission agreed on a final programme of activities for 1995 for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and asked governments to give consideration to the final comprehensive Programme of Action of the Decade. It also recommended that the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities establish a working group to promote minority rights.

The Commission also endorsed a workshop, to be held later this year, on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples in the United Nations system. A resolution concerning traffic in women and girls, called on governments to prevent the misuse and exploitation of women in the tourism development and in the export of labour. It also called on States to review their national legislation on public emergencies.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday considered revised programme budget estimates which would redeploy nearly $3.25 million, out of a total of $5.7 million no longer required for anti-apartheid activities. The General Assembly has already approved the redeployment of resources totalling more than $1.4 million.

The funds had been allocated under budget sections concerning policy-making organs, the elimination of apartheid and public information. Under the revised estimates, portions of the funds would be redeployed to cover activities relating to political affairs, peace-keeping, policy coordination and sustainable development, public information and the Economic Commission of Africa.

* * *

Government experts gathered in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik this week to deliberate on a draft global programme of action to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. The meeting, whic is organized by the United Nations Environment Protection (UNEP) will focus on conservation of the oceans. The draft programme classifies areas of concern, establishes priorities and defines strategies and programmes to take advantage of new global initiatives in marine conservation. Most importantly, it recognizes significant additional areas of concern, including the development of international law to focus on preventive action, and development and promotion of innovative management approaches.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, UNEP's Executive Director, told the meeting approaches to deal with marine pollution from land-based activities. Approaches should consist of a comprehensive mix of political, social, economic, managerial, technical, scientific, legal and institutional measures. She called for strengthening partnerships and close involvement of all stakeholders to ensure the success of the wide-ranging programme of action.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1847
9 March 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses deep concern over climate of insecurity in Burundi; condemns violence and intimidation within and outside country; reaffirms support for Convention of Government Agreement.

+ General Assembly and Security Council will hold simultaneous election on 21 June to fill International Court of Justice vacancy.

+ World Summit for Social Development focuses on employment; progress reported in negotiations for draft declaration and programme of action.

+ Secretary-General meets with high-level advisory group to discuss follow-up to Summit for Social Development.

+ Secretary-General deeply concerned with upsurge in fighting in Afghanistan; calls on all parties to implement an immediate cease-fire.

+ Western diplomats hold talks with Croatian President in effort to find compromise over proposed withdrawal of UNPROFOR's mandate.

+ Secretary-General reports productive dialogue between two sides in Abkhazia, Georgia; but says stalemate over return of refugees could derail negotiations and lead to renewed war.

+ Direct foreign investment to developing countries hits new record, increasing by 6 per cent to $204 billion in 1994.

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The Security Council today expressed its deep concern with the continuing climate of uncertainty in Burundi in a statement read out by its President, Li Zhaoxing (China). The Council condemned those within and outside the country who were using undemocratic methods to nullify the agreed power-

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For information media—not an official record

sharing arrangements contained in the Convention of Government Agreement of 10 September. Their actions, including intimidation and incitement to violence, as well as guerrilla activities and political subversion, threatened peace, stability and national reconciliation, the Council said.

The Council reaffirmed its support for the Convention of Government Agreement and the coalition Government established under it. Noting the appointment of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, it urged all parties in Burundi to work together to ensure stability in the country.

Impunity was a fundamental problem in Burundi and seriously endangered security, the Council said. It stressed the importance of assistance to help strengthen the national judicial system. The Council also underlined the role played by the international commission of inquiry into the 1993 coup attempt and the massacres which followed.

* * *

The Security Council today decided to fill the vacancy on the International Court of Justice in an election on 21 June this year. In unanimously adopting resolution (925) 1995, the Council decided to hold the election at a simultaneous meeting with the General Assembly.

The election is to fill the vacancy on the Court, as a result of the death of Judge Roberto Ago of Italy on 24 February. The term of office will be for the remainder of Judge Ago's term.

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Delegates have reported progress in the committees working on the draft declaration and programme of action expected to come out of the World Summit for Social Development. The Australian Ambassador, Richard Butler, who is chairing one of the working groups charged with ironing out the agreements, said political commitments were being made which would have been unthinkable three or four years ago. They reflected changes in the political landscape since the end of the cold war. He said it was now possible to create a new agenda that was people centred and less exclusively devoted to the security of States.

United States Under-secretary for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth said his Government had been focusing on absolute poverty. The global community would not be politically or economically viable as long as the enormous gap between rich and poor remained. He stressed that it was in his Government's national interests to close the gap.

Meanwhile, on the fourth day of the Summit, a general exchange of views continued in the plenary on the theme of employment. Discussion focused on productive employment and the reduction of unemployment. More than 120 heads of State and government are expected to address the Summit over the weekend.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met in Copenhagen Thursday with members of his high-level Advisory Group on the World Summit for Social Development, according to a United Nations spokesman. Nitin Desai, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination, and Sustainable Development, was also present. The discussions dealt with possible follow up to the Summit.

The Secretary-General also met with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso. They discussed the situation in Chechnya, Rwanda and Burundi.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is deeply concerned by the recent upsurge in fighting in Afghanistan, which has caused many civilian casualties, particularly in Kabul, a United Nations Spokesman said Wednesday. The Secretary-General has appealed to the parties involved in the fighting to implement an immediate cease-fire. He has also appealed to them to stop initiating further hostilities, which would not serve the interests of the Afghan people or peace.

The Secretary-General has called on all sides to cooperate with the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri and the working group of four independent Afghan personalities, in order to help bring a peaceful transition to power in the country.

* * *

For the first time, there has been a productive dialogue between the two sides in Abkhazia, Georgia, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In his report dated 6 March, the Secretary-General said negotiations had been constructive and businesslike. A common language had been found on some issues relating to the identification of a political status for Abkhazia.

However, the continued stalemate over the orderly return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia could lead to explosive developments, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned. Political negotiations were likely to be derailed and there could be a resumption of a bitter war between the two sides. Therefore, efforts would continue to obtain an Abkhaz agreement on a timetable to ensure a substantial number of people returned to their homes by the middle of 1995.

The Secretary-General said the presence of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and forces from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had helped prevent renewed fighting. Their presence had also paved the way for political negotiations which must be maintained. He was confident that, with patience and perseverance, solutions could be found.

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There are hints that the Croatian Government might reverse its decision to evict the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) at the end of March. According to UNPROFOR Radio, Western Diplomats have been having talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman aimed at finding a compromise. Proposals are reported to include having UNPROFOR remain in Croatia, perhaps under a different name and at approximately half the current strength.

* * *

Direct foreign investment to developing countries increased by 6 percent in 1994, to reach an estimated $204 billion, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, (UNCTAD). The recovery of developed economies and the continued strong growth of several developing countries contributed to the increase in investments, UNCTAD reported.

The great majority of direct foreign investment has been spearheaded by transnational corporations based and operating out of developed countries, UNCTAD said. However, their investments in developing economies was increasing because of good growth performance and liberalized investment policies, including privatization programmes.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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10 March 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council urges Angolan Government and UNITA to take steps now to ensure deployment of UNAVEM III units by 9 May.

+ Main Committee of Social Summit agrees on most outstanding issues of draft declaration and programme of action to be submitted to world leaders over weekend.

+ UNHCR warns closing borders will not solve refugee problem; says human rights violations and gross social inequities uproot people and cause instability.

+ Secretary-General meets heads of State and government in Copenhagen.

+ General Assembly appropriates $40 million for liquidation of UNOMOZ; urges prompt payment of assessed contributions to allow Special Account to meet liabilities.

+ Former UNPROFOR Commander says military solution will not solve conflict in Balkans.

+ Human Rights Commission rejects resolutions calling on China and Nigeria to ensure human rights.

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The Security Council Friday called upon the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to take steps now to ensure the prompt deployment of United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) units on 9 May. In a statement read out by its President, Li Zhaoxing (China), the Council called on the parties, particularly UNITA, to end negative propaganda, improve cooperation and stop activities which have complicated deployment of the Mission's units.

The Council endorsed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros- Ghali's conclusions that the Angolan Government and UNITA must provide more concrete signs of cooperation and goodwill in implementing the peace process. It urged

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them to immediately finalize arrangements for a meeting between Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA President Jonas Savimbi to ensure political momentum for the successful completion of the Lusaka Protocol of 20 November 1994.

* * *

Most of the outstanding language of the draft declaration and programme of action to be submitted to heads of State and government at the World Summit for Social Development over the weekend have been finalized. Agreement was reached on passages in the final documents concerning innovative ways of tackling the question of financial resources for social development and additional political commitment concerning eduction and health.

Still pending in the programme of action is language concerning the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity as contained in the United Nations Charter. A provision inviting creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions to explore innovative measures to alleviate the debt burdens of developing countries is also contentious.

The Chairman of the Main Negotiating Committee, Chilean Ambassador Juan Somavia, told correspondents that the draft declaration aimed to put the issues of ordinary people back in the picture. He said a commitment on the eradication of absolute poverty was truly historic. Another, dealing with structural adjustments, raised the question of why governments balanced their budgets on the backs of the weak and took the easy way out by cutting social expenditures.

Yesterday, the Summit was told market forces alone would not reverse the global trend of increasing unemployment. Many speakers said that economic growth had been accompanied by unemployment and a drop in living standards. They called on governments to support job creation programmes as the best way to attack poverty and social disintegration. Delegates also discussed the need to integrate migrant workers, which would require efforts to combat discrimination, xenophobia and racism.

* * *

Governments were gravely mistaken if they believed that building barriers and closing borders would solve the refugee probem, Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), warned Friday. She was addressing the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. The ranks of the world's 23 million refugees would swell, unless governments tackled the root causes of displacement, supported aid programmes in host countries and promoted reintegration of those returning to their homelands.

Ms. Ogata said social stability was not threatened by refugees, but by human rights violations and gross social inequities which uprooted people. The underlying causes must be addressed so people were no longer forced to

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flee, she stressed. It was no coincidence that most refugees were in the poorest parts of the world. She said the linkages between displacement and deprivation, between refugee flows and social disintegration were evident.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR has expressed concern that the agreement on "minimum guarantees" for asylum procedures by European Union members might actually erode certain basic asylum principles. The agreement proposes setting common standards for dealing with asylum seekers in all countries belonging to the European Union. The UNHCR said many of the proposed guarantees include principles it advocated. However, the "minimum guarantees" should not become "maximum guarantees", and it urged European Union members to continue implementing existing higher national standards.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met Friday with world leaders who have gathered in Copenhagen for the World Summit for Social Development. More than 120 heads of State or government will meet over the weekend to adopt the Summit's draft declaration and programme of action.

The Secretary-General met with the presidents of Turkey, Cyprus, Georgia, Zaire, Mali, Central African Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Mozambique. He also met with the Prime Ministers of China and India.

* * *

The General Assembly has appropriated $40 million to the Special Account for the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ), to cover its liquidation over the period 16 November 1994 to 31 March 1995. The Assembly also decided that the assets of the Operation would be disposed of according to a set of priority principles.

If it is cost effective, all equipment that meets the requirements of other United Nations operations will be redeployed or held in reserve for future operations. Other equipment will be transferred on request to United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations already operating in Mozambique. The remainder will be sold commercially and assets which could not be dismantled will be donated to the Mozambique Government.

The Assembly expressed deep concern that the failure of Member States to pay their assessed contributions threatened to leave the Special Account with insufficient funds to meet its liabilities. It urged States to make prompt payment, and asked the Secretary-General to explore possibilities in order to ensure prompt reimbursement to countries who had contributed troops and equipment.

* * *

There can be no military solution to the conflict in the Balkans, according to the former Commander of the United Nations Protection Force

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(UNPROFOR), General Bertrand Guillaume de Sauville de Lapresele. He told United Nations correspondents Friday that even though the Bosnian Serbs controlled 70 per cent of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was no solution. Diplomatic negotiations, however "tricky" and difficult, would become more important in solving the conflict.

General de Lapresele said that it was natural, given UNPROFOR's impartial role, that it would be criticized by both sides. But it was a peace-keeper not a peacemaker, and its job was not to enforce peace or decide who was the aggressor. It must respect a "technical" impartiality, even if it held a moral opinion about who was responsible for certain actions. He believed one of the reasons the Croatian and Bosnian Governments expressed frustration with UNPROFOR was their mistaken belief that it should take sides and fight their war.

UNPROFOR's role was to aid humanitarian relief efforts, and it had helped save millions from starvation and illness, General de Lapresele said. It also aimed to obtain a cease-fire, without which there could be no peace settlement. He pointed out the cease-fire agreements in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina were still holding, even though the cessation of hostilities agreement was not being observed as much as hoped.

* * *

The Commission on Human Rights has rejected draft resolutions calling on China and Nigeria to ensure all human rights. Under the resolutions, the Commission would have expressed concern at China's violation of the rights to freedom of assembly, religion and fair trial. It would have also expressed deep concern at the violations of human rights in Nigeria and called on its Government to restore democratic rule. The resolutions were rejected by a roll-call vote.

Earlier, the Commission heard that without action to stop the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the United Nation would be failing to deal with the one of the worst human rights violations. Ivan Mora, the Chairman of the Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, said such practices were increasing worldwide and must be stopped.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1849
13 March 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Social Development Summit adopts Declaration and Programme of Action; world leaders pledge to confront "profound social problems" facing disadvantaged.

+ Secretary-General declares potential to solve world's social problems has never been greater.

+ Secretary-General meets with Croatian President to discuss new plan to keep United Nations peace-keepers in Croatia.

+ WFP and UNHCR appeal for funds to counter acute food shortages threatening Rwanda and Burundi refugees.

+ Charter Committee recommends General Assembly initiate procedures to delete "enemy State" clauses from United Nations Charter.

+ Week-long Congress on Public International Law opens at United Nations Headquarters.

* * *

Leaders from 118 countries adopted a Declaration and Programme of Action to address the underlying causes of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, as the World Summit for Social Development concluded today. The Summit was the largest gathering of heads of State and government and the first to address at the highest government level, the major social challenges which breed unrest, hamper economic development and impede a lasting peace.

The Copenhagen Declaration contains a set of 10 commitments, which will form the basis of the international community's drive to confront the structural causes and distressing consequences of "profound social problems". The Programme of Action recommends international and national measures aimed at eliminating inequities within and among countries and fostering social development policies and programmes.

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At the Summit, Denmark announced debt forgiveness to poor countries totalling a billion kroner, and the Chancellor of Austria said his Government would write off bilateral credits worth over $100 million. The President of the Republic of Korea said his Government would provide technical training for more than 30,000 people from developing countries by the year 2010. The Vice-President of the United States unveiled an initiative to channel 40 per cent of the country's development assistance through non-governmental organizations. The President of France and Prime Minister of Norway called for consideration of international taxation systems to finance social development-related programmes.

* * *

The potential for cooperation to solve the world's social ills had never been greater, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as he addressed heads of State and government Saturday at the World Summit for Social Development. The east-west divide had disappeared, and the north-south confrontation was giving way to a more global approach, the Secretary-General said. The new economic and social challenge was not confrontation, but the widening divide between those who could make it on their own and those who could not and would need the international community's cooperation. The spirit of the Summit's agenda must reflect a sense of solidarity within nations and between nations which did not allow the privileged to ignore the poor, vulnerable or marginalized.

The Secretary-General said today's acute social ills, including crime, drugs, disease, urban decay and declining standards of education, all had social consequences for human security. Social problems, which were once confined within borders, now spread across the world and required global attention. True and lasting success could only be achieved through patient and deliberate efforts. Governments would need to act in partnership with experts, parliamentarians, grass-root and religious organizations, trade unions, community associations, businesses, scientists and non-governmental organizations to solve these problems.

* * *

The Secretary-General met with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Copenhagen Sunday to discuss the plan for continuing the United Nations peace-keeping presence in Croatia. The plan, which is subject to Security Council approval, involves scaling down the number of troops from 12,000 to 5,000 and redefining the mandate, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General was pleased with the development and would discuss details of the plan with the Croatian Government once the Council had made a decision, the spokesman said. Both men will meet in New York at the end of this week. Leaders of the Croatian Serbs in Knin welcomed the decision and their so-called "Foreign Minister" said they would pursue peaceful negotiations in the search for a political solution.

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Meanwhile, civilians in Sarajevo, including two young girls, were killed by sniper attacks over the weekend. A United Nations plane carrying Special Representative Yasushi Akashi was hit by heavy machine gun fire, which pierced the fuselage and narrowly missed United Nations personnel on the plane. Mr. Akashi said he would not be intimidated by the deliberate attack. He continued scheduled meetings with Bosnian government officials and later with Bosnian Serb leaders in Pale.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have urged the international community to act quickly to counter dramatic food shortages threatening more than 3 million Rwandese and Burundi refugees. The WFP said $385 million in aid is needed this year, but only $155 million has been pledged so far. Only half the food required for April would be available, and more severe shortfalls were likely in May and June. The food pipeline for July, August and beyond was nearly empty.

Daily food rations in the refugee camps were being cut in March as a contingency measure, and relief organizations were extremely worried that reduced rations could spark tensions and serious security problems in the camps and surrounding villages. The WFP and the UNHCR said political solutions leading to early repatriation of refugees and displaced persons could not be achieved when hundreds of thousands of civilians were insecure about the food supply.

* * *

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization has approved a report dealing with the deletion of the "enemy State" clauses from the Charter. The report also addresses such issues as assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter and Model Rules for the Conciliation of Disputes between States.

The Committee, which ended its two-week session Friday, is mandated to examine issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the strengthening of the role of the Organization. The report recommended that the General Assembly, at the earliest appropriate session, announce its intention to initiate procedures to delete the "enemy State" clauses from the Charter.

In another recommendation, the Committee invited the General Assembly to establish an open-ended working group to consider the implementation of the Charter provisions related to assistance to third States affected by sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter.

* * *

More than 1,000 people from 145 countries will attend a Congress on Public International Law at United Nations Headquarters beginning Monday. The

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Congress, which is being held within the framework of the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990-1999), is to assist the legal profession, new States and the general public.

The week-long Congress will discuss the codification, progressive development and implementation of public international law. Practising lawyers, corporate counsel, ministry officials, judges, law teachers and diplomats are expected to attend.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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14 March 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Nine French soldiers serving with UNPROFOR killed in accident on Bosnian mountain; 4 others seriously injured.

+ Secretary-General's plan for gender equality outlined at one-day conference on Women and United Nations attended by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

+ Commission on Narcotic Drugs opens in Vienna; will focus on economic and social consequences of drug abuse and trafficking.

+ President of International Court of Justice addresses Congress on International Law; says Court's advisory function should be extended to more organizations and States.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves diplomatic privileges, pensions for World Court judges and assistance to Disarmament Institute.

+ 1995 United Nations Population Award shared by African non-governmental organization and Secretary-General of International Planned Parenthood Federation.

* * *

Nine French soldiers serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were killed today in a tragic accident on Mount Igman, near Sarajevo. A UN spokesman said the soldiers were travelling on the snow-covered mountain, when their off-road vehicle plunged into a ravine. Four other soldiers were seriously injured. The Spokesman described the accident as UNPROFOR'S worst single tragedy.

Meanwhile, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi said today that while the Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb leaders were still committed to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, they were accusing each other of bad faith. Mr. Akashi told correspondents at Sarajevo airport that UNPROFOR had been trying to promote dialogue to resolve disputes on the Agreement's implementation, and it was in the parties' best interests to start talks as

soon as possible. The Agreement and the cease-fire had been precarious from the beginning and he feared fighting could resume unless something was done in the next two or three weeks.

* * *

Women and the United Nations was the theme of a one-day Conference at UN Headquarters today, which was dedicated to former United States first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt was a delegate to the United Nations in its early years and helped draft the Declaration of Human Rights.

In a message to the Conference, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the recruitment and promotion of women at the United Nations had failed to live up to the promise of the Charter and lagged dismally behind what it should be. Member States had done no better. Only 6 out of 185 Missions were headed by women and there were very few women diplomats or foreign ministers. Stressing that the UN must lead the way, he said his Strategic Plan of Action was a way to achieve full gender equality in the Organization within the next five years. Currently, 15 percent of UN director-level posts and above are held by women.

The first lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, told the Conference investing in women's health and education was essential to improving global prosperity and the United Nations must play a leadership role. Every one of its programmes, policies and decisions directly or indirectly affected women as they cared for children, managed households, and worked in their jobs. Women must be part of the UN process and demand that their rights and opportunities be respected in nations around the world, she said.

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The advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice were instrumental in preventive diplomacy, helping to avert conflict and deflate tension, according to its President, Mohammed Bedjaoui. He was addressing the United Nations Congress on Public International Law today, as it considered the peaceful disputes between States, including resort to and full respect of the Court. By providing legal interpretations during disputes and removing the threat of conflicts, the Court also helped international peace, he said. Access to its advisory opinions should be extended to more States and bodies, including regional organizations.

Yesterday, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Hans Correll, told the Congress it should appeal to world decision makers to act with prudence, refrain from the use of force and solve disputes peacefully. Those responsibilities could be translated as statesmanship, he said. International law was not the exclusive interest of a few specialists, but was an important ingredient in daily decision-making. Therefore, decision makers must make

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sure such law was applied and legal advice sought when important foreign policy decisions were being made.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today recommended that the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, his spouse and minor children residing in the United States, be granted diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The Committee also approved recommendations concerning the pension scheme for members of the International Court of Justice. According to a draft decision, the pensions of Judges elected to serve a 9 year term would be set at $50,000 a year, to be increased by an additional $250 for each month of service up to a maximum of $75,000 per year. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly keep the level of support costs to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research under review.

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Political changes following the Soviet Union's breakup and the liberalization of the global economy have increased the magnitude and complexity of illicit drug trafficking, according to reports before the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Commission, which is the principle UN policy-making body on drug control, is meeting in Vienna 14 to 23 March. It will examine the strengths and weaknesses of existing drug control measures, how to harmonize national laws, and ways to encourage non-governmental organizations and the private sector in drug control efforts.

The Commission will also consider how to strengthen the fight against international criminal drug organizations and penalties for drug-trafficking related offenses such as money laundering and illegal arms trade. Ways to eradicate the growing and dangerous links between terrorist groups, drug traffickers and their paramilitary gangs will also be examined.

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The United Nations 1995 Population Award will be shared by Dr. Halfdan Mahler Secretary-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children. The Population Award is presented annually to individuals and institutions which have made outstanding contributions to increasing awareness of population problems.

The Inter-African Committee was founded in 1984 to fight traditional practices harmful to women and children's health, especially female genital mutilation. It also combats other traditions such as forced feeding of women, early childhood marriages and teenage pregnancies. Dr. Halfden Mahler was chosen for his leadership in reproductive health, family planning and worldwide population issues.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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15 March 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ WFP reports Krajina Serbs strengthening blockade of humanitarian deliveries into Bihac pocket as malnutrition and hunger threaten population.

+ Secretary-General sends Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani to Angola to discuss peace process.

+ Under-Secretary-General Peter Hansen convenes meeting to speed up disbursement of humanitarian aid promised for Rwanda.

+ Iraq's deputy Prime Minister briefs Secretary-General on his Government's compliance with Security Council resolutions.

+ United Nations launches consolidated inter-agency appeal for $14.6 million for displaced persons in Sierra Leone and refugees in Guinea.

+ Commission on Status of Women begins three-week session in New York in preparation for Beijing Conference.

+ United Nations Drug Control Programme is running out of money, says its Director-General.

* * *

Malnutrition and hunger still threaten thousands of people in the Bihac enclave, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). Though 10 food convoys reached the area in February, the 920 metric tons of food delivered, fell far short of the 20,000 tons needed by more than 200,000 people in the pocket. Only 20 percent of the population has received any food aid over the last six months.

The WFP said the Krajina Serbs seemed to be strengthening their blockade of humanitarian relief as part of a coordinated strategy to deny food to the most vulnerable people in Bihac. Food convoys into Sarajevo have also been blocked since 27 February, and deliveries into the eastern enclaves of Zepa, Goradze and Srebenica are being disrupted again. On 8 March, the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) suspended humanitarian assistance to areas controlled by Krajina Serbs until access into the Bihac pocket was guaranteed.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send his Special Advisor, Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani to Angola. Mr. Kittani, who left today, will hold discussions on ways to move the peace process forward.

The Secretary-General will submit a report to the Security Council on 25 March on whether conditions for the deployment of military units of the United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) are being met.

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The humanitarian situation in Rwanda is becoming more urgent as desperately needed aid funds promised to the Government have failed to materialize, according to a United Nations spokesman. In an effort to speed up the process, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen will convene a meeting tomorrow with representatives of 14 Governments, the European Union, the World Bank and UN agencies.

The UN launched two major fund-raising drives in January to raise more than $700 million for rehabilitation and reconstruction in Rwanda. However, donors have failed to deliver on their commitments, which was causing a great deal of frustration, the spokesman said. The situation in the country was extremely serious and the Rwandan Government did not have the resources to function without assistance.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday with the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, at Mr. Aziz's request. The Deputy Prime Minister briefed the Secretary-General about discussions between Iraqi officials and the Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission on the Disarmament of Iraq, Rolf Ekeus.

Mr. Aziz also informed the Secretary-General of further steps Iraq had taken to comply with Security Council resolutions. The Secretary-General expressed the hope that Iraq would continue its cooperation with the UN, to ensure full compliance with relevant Council resolutions.

* * *

The United Nations today appealed for $14.5 million to fund urgent humanitarian activities in Sierra Leone during 1995. The consolidated inter-agency appeal, which was launched in New York by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, will help an estimated 500,000 internally displaced persons in the country and another 200,000 refugees in neighbouring Guinea.

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Four years of fighting in Sierra Leone have caused a massive movement of people in Sierra Leone and the threat of epidemics has increased both among the internally displaced and refugees in Guinea.

* * *

The Fourth World Conference on Women must elicit commitments for action and resources, the Commission on the Status of Women was told today as it began its 3-week session. Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella said it was time for a deeper level of action not further analysis. She said the series of United Nations conferences affirmed the need for new relationships and equal partnerships between citizens and governments and between men and women. The Commission is the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, which will be held in Beijing 4 to 15 September.

Nitin Desai, Under Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said the Beijing Conference was part of a process. Through its series of international conferences, the United Nations was seeking an appropriate role for public policy in a rapidly changing world. "A global social movement is emerging which is holding national and international systems accountable for their performances", he said.

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The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is running out of money, according to its Executive Director, Giorgio Giacomelli. He was addressing the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as it began meeting in Vienna, Tuesday. The Programme was being forced to say "no" to good projects because funding could not be guaranteed, he said. The tendency of donors to earmark contributions could cause the UNDCP to become "a box filled with projects without the necessary infrastructure". He stressed at least 30 per cent of the Programme's income must be received as general purpose funds.

The representative of France gave an overview of the European Union's five-year drug control plan, stressing the need for improved coordination to reduce expenditure and avoid duplication. The United Kingdom's representative described his country's three-year action plan, emphasizing activities at the local level. He said that limited funding was bound to cause a reduction in UNDCP programmes, but there must not be too severe a decline in project-based work.

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council calls on parties to Abkhaz conflict to achieve comprehensive settlement; notes deterioration of security situation and more frequent reports of human rights abuses.

+ Secretary-General discusses continuation of United Nations peace-keeping presence in Croatia with President Tudjman.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves draft resolution deploring increasing risk facing United Nations personnel.

+ United Nations plays major role in development and codification of international law, Secretary-General tells Congress on Public International Law.

+ Economists predict world economy will grow by 3 per cent in 1995.

+ World Commission on Culture and Development holds regional consultations for North America at Headquarters.

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The Security Council today called on the parties to the Abkhaz conflict to achieve a comprehensive settlement, including on the political status of Abkhazia. In a statement by its President, Li Zhaoxing (China), the Council noted that there had been little overall progress towards such a settlement, and that a stalemate existed with respect to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The Council noted that the security situation had deteriorated, particularly in the Gali region, causing great difficulty in the delivery of humanitarian supplies. It also noted with concern that reports of human rights abuses, largely against the Georgian population, had become more frequently. The Council called on the parties to provide a secure environment for the return of refugees and displaced persons and to ensure that international relief supplies could be delivered safely. It deplored the

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continued obstruction by the Abkhaz authorities, and urged them to agree to a timetable for the return of refugees and displaced persons on the basis of the Quadripartite Agreement signed in April 1994.

The Council agreed with the observation of the Secretary-General that, with patience and perseverance, solutions could be found to the situation in Abkhazia. However, it would not be possible to maintain the support of the international community without progress in that direction.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today at Headquarters with President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia to discuss the continuation of the United Nations peace-keeping presence in that country. According to the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, a new approach was being considered which focused on three main issues: "control" of Croatia's international boundaries to prevent the movement of military supplies and to ensure compliance with sanctions imposed by Security Council resolution 820 (1993); monitoring of the cease-fire in Croatia; and confidence-building measures "to create conditions for reintegration of those areas into Croatia".

Any redefinition of the peace-keeping mandate in Croatia would be subject to Council approval. However, Mr. Nobilo told correspondents that Croatia would want the final say regarding which countries contributed troops, the number of troops to be deployed, and the duration of the mandate. While it would not insist on a ceiling of 5,000 troops, Croatia would want experienced and properly equipped peace-keepers.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved a draft resolution deploring the increasing risk facing United Nations personnel, including those on peace-keeping and humanitarian operations. By that draft, the General Assembly would urge the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to strengthen the cooperative inter-agency approach, to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel system-wide. It would also welcome a recent report by the Secretary-General on stress management and request that he present any necessary funding proposals in the context of the 1996-1997 programme budget.

The Assembly would also take action to provide stable financing for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, according to proposals presented yesterday by the United Nations Controller, Yukio Takasu. He said that since the establishment of the Tribunal, the Secretary-General had been operating on the basis of commitment authorizations alone, with no authorized staffing table. Although the estimated requirement for 1994-1995 totalled some $39 million, no appropriation had been made, and there had been no assessment on Member States in the past two years. That arrangement could not last too much longer, he stressed.

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The United Nations plays a major role in the process which gives rise to new bodies of international law, according to the Secretary-General. Addressing the closing session of the Congress on Public International Law, he said the Organization promoted the codification and progressive development of law in such areas as the international liability of States and crimes against the peace and security of mankind.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations could also generate law in the most specialized and most innovative areas of international economic life. Regarding the rules applicable to international contracts, for example, the Organization was doing invaluable work in collecting information and promoting common models.

The United Nations was also affected by the deep changes in international law, he noted. In response, it had embarked on a thorough and continuing process of self-examination, focusing on the representativeness of United Nations organs, particularly on the composition of the Security Council.

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Global economic growth will accelerate to about 3 per cent in 1995, up from 2.7 per cent in 1994, despite the Mexican financial crisis and turbulence in world markets, according to experts meeting at Headquarters. The meeting was held from 15 to 18 March under the auspices of Project Link, an international economic research network of more than 50 teams. The Project is coordinated by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA).

The experts indicated that economies in most of the developing world would continue to grow twice as fast as industrialized economies this year. International trade was also expected to continue its strong growth, spurred by liberalization and regional agreements.

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The World Commission on Culture and Development held its regional consultations for North America at Headquarters this week. The World Commission was jointly established by the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992 to prepare an action-oriented world report for submission to the General Assembly and UNESCO's General Conference at the end of 1995.

The President of the World Commission, Javier Perez de Cuellar, told correspondents at Headquarters that the ambitious report would highlight the cultural dimension of development. It would reflect a commitment to pluralism and the recognition of cultural diversity. Cultural creativity must be recognized as part of development, while the cultural dimensions of gender equity and changing gender roles must be readdressed, he said.

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